I'VE BEEN IN SEATTLE FOR PRECISELY FIVE HOURS AND TWENTY-THREE MINUTES. TWO DEAD BODIES AND ONE CAPTURED IMP LATER...

YOU THINK SOMEONE MIGHT FIND IT STRANGE WE'RE RIDING AROUND WITH A GUY WITH A BAG ON HIS HEAD?
NOT IN SEATTLE.

HANK! YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS! LUKEN IS RIDING WITH THE NEW GIRL ON HIS SCOOTER BIKE. AND GET THIS...THERE IS A THIRD PERSON BETWEEN THEM WITH A BAG OVER ITS HEAD! SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?
AND TELL 'EM WHAT, GLADYS? THAT THEY WENT TO SOME PARTY. THEY'RE YOUNG FUN AND ENJOYING LIFE...

UNLIKE SOME OF US...

THUD

WHAT IS HE?
I THINK HE'S A GALTXAGORRIAK.
YOU JUST MADE THAT UP, DIDN'T YOU?
I HAD NO IDEA SEATTLE HAD BECOME SO INFESTED...

HE INCINERATED THE BODIES BEFORE WE COULD STOP HIM.
ARGH!

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR FELICITY!
OUCH!
PREN! STOP!
NATALI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UGH!

KRAAAK!
ACK!
DID YOU WANT HER TO KILL HIM? AND LOOK, THEY'RE FINE. I BARELY TOUCHED THEM

YOU CALL THIS BARELY TOUCHING THEM? THEY'RE OUT COLD!
LUKEN, CARRY THE IMP TO THE HOLDING CELL. NATALI, TAKE CARE OF PREN.

PREN. WAKE UP, "PRINCESS"...
DO THAT TO ME AGAIN AND I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU SEVEN SHADES OF BLACK AND BLUE WITH A BASEBALL BAT.
WHERE IS THAT LITTLE IMP TURD?

FIREBRAND

THE INITIATION OF NATALI PRESANO

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Welcome To The Cougar Mountain Wildland Park...

THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...

COME ON. LET'S GO IN-- YOU GUYS SAID YOU WERE TIRED OF THE SAME OLD HIKES.
SEE! THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO COME THIS WAY. I KNEW THE ADVENTURE QUEEN WOULD WANT TO GO SPELUNKING.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE DARK?
NO. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN A CAVE-IN! OR KILLED BY A RABID ANIMAL!

OH RIGHT. ANIMAL ATTACKS HAPPEN ALL THE TIME IN COUGAR MOUNTAIN WILDLAND PARK. WE'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE OF SEATTLE!
I'LL BE HERE POSTING SOME PHOTOS.

LOOK AT HER...SHE'S LOVELY...

HAHAHAHAHA!
AH!
MY GOD!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
GET THE POLICE HERE NOW! MY FRIENDS ARE BEING ATTACKED BY SOME KIND OF WILD ANIMAL!

CRUNCH
GURGLE...
MY TURN! WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE?
HOLY SHIT! GET AWAY FROM ME!
TRYING TO PLAY HARD TO GET? AREN'T YOU PRECIOUS...

SCARTCH

CHOMP

SHRIPP

PUMP HIM WITH *LIKIDO BELDURRA*.

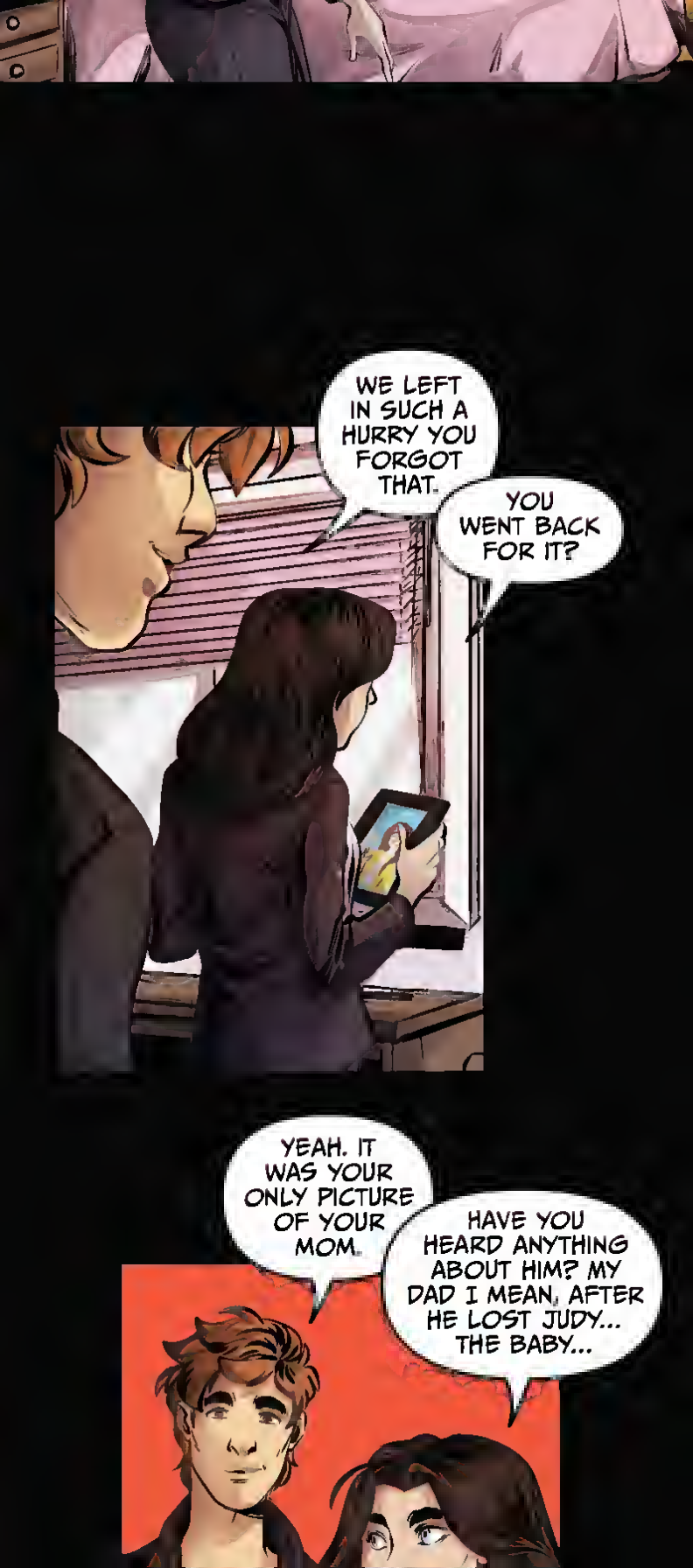
THAT'LL GET HIM TALKING.
YOU CAN TRY, SWEETHEART. I DO LOVE THE HIGH I GET FROM IT, BUT...
IT WON'T WORK ON HIM. *GALTXAGORRIAK* ARE IMMUNE.
LOOK AT HIS SMUG FACE. HE KNOWS WHO KILLED FELICITY! LET HIM OUT. LET THE ALL-POWERFUL-APPRENTICE ***POUND THE SHIT*** OUT OF HIM! NATALI, ***MAKE HIM TALK!***
PREN, BACK TO THE OFFICE. ***NOW!***
I'M SURE WE CAN WORK OUT A DEAL, *IKUZI*. YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS. PAY ME A FAIR SUM AND I'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON.
NATALI, SEND WORD TO EDER THAT WE'RE TRANSPORTING A PRISONER HOME.
I THINK PREN'S RIGHT. LET HIM OUT. I'LL FRY HIS ASS INTO

TALKING.
NO. THE COUNCIL WILL DEAL WITH HIM. THE TAKING OF A HUMAN LIFE CARRIES A DEATH SENTENCE.
I HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH *THEIR DEATHS!*
THEN WHO DID?

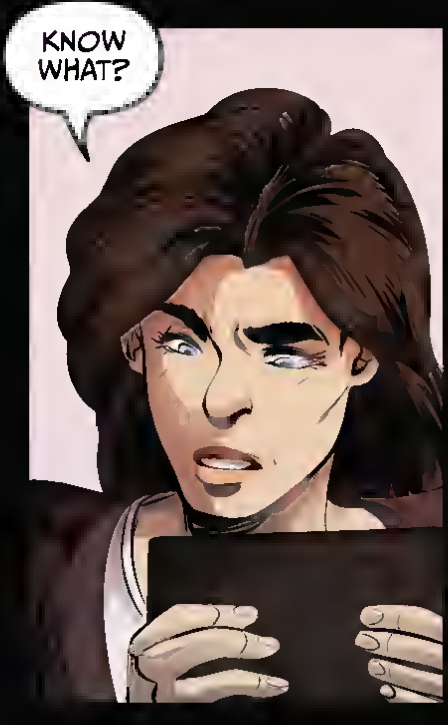
IN THE KITCHEN...

WHAT TIME IS IT?
1 AM IN SPAIN.
THAT'S ILLEGAL, YOU KNOW.
WHAT IS?
THE DRINKING AGE IN THE U.S. IS 21.
IN SPAIN, IT'S 18. CHEERS!
WELCOME HOME...

LUKEN HAD NO IDEA HOW MUCH THOSE TWO LITTLE WORDS MEANT TO ME...


WE LEFT IN SUCH A HURRY YOU FORGOT THAT.
YOU WENT BACK FOR IT?
YEAH. IT WAS YOUR ONLY PICTURE OF YOUR MOM.
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT HIM? MY DAD I MEAN, AFTER HE LOST JUDY... THE BABY...

YOU DON'T KNOW?

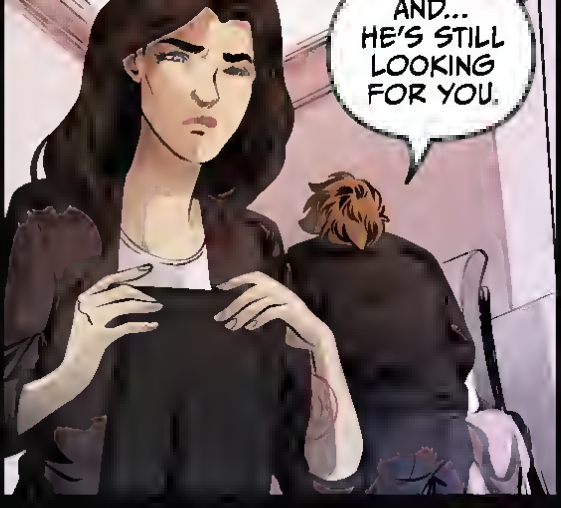

KNOW WHAT?

JUDY, THE KID, THEY'RE FINE

RELIEVED? YES.

ANNOYED SELENA NEVER SAID ANYTHING? YES.

IRRATIONALLY ANGRY THAT JUDY WAS STILL IN MY FATHER'S LIFE? YES!


AND... HE'S STILL LOOKING FOR YOU.

MY FATHER? HE CAN LOOK ALL HE WANTS.
I DON'T PLAN ON LETTING HIM FIND ME... EVER.

THANKS... FOR THE HELP.
AND FOR THIS.
ALL THESE YEARS. NEVER ASKED SELENA WHAT THOSE MARKS MEAN.
IN EDER, WHEN I WON

THE COMPETITION AND THE IKUZI MARK APPEARED. IT HURT. BURNED.

SABINE, THE WOMAN WHO TRAINED ME THIS PAST YEAR, BEFORE SELENA RETURNED TO GET ME...

...SHE SAID IT OPENED A PORTAL, GIVING ACCESS TO OUR GODDESS' POWERS.

THE RUNES REPRESENT DIFFERENT THINGS.

STRENGTH.

TRUST.

WISDOM.

AND THE MOONS SYMBOLIZE THE EYES OF THE GODDESS.

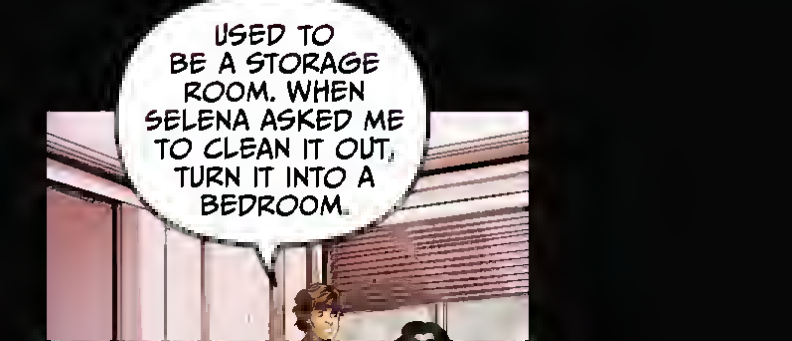
MARI. SELENA'S SAID HER NAME OFTEN ENOUGH. AND THE SWORD AND SHIELD?

ACCORDING TO SABINE, IT'S MORE OF A POWER-CATCHER. MEANING POWER MODERATED BY RESTRAINT.

SOMETHING I'VE NEVER BEEN VERY

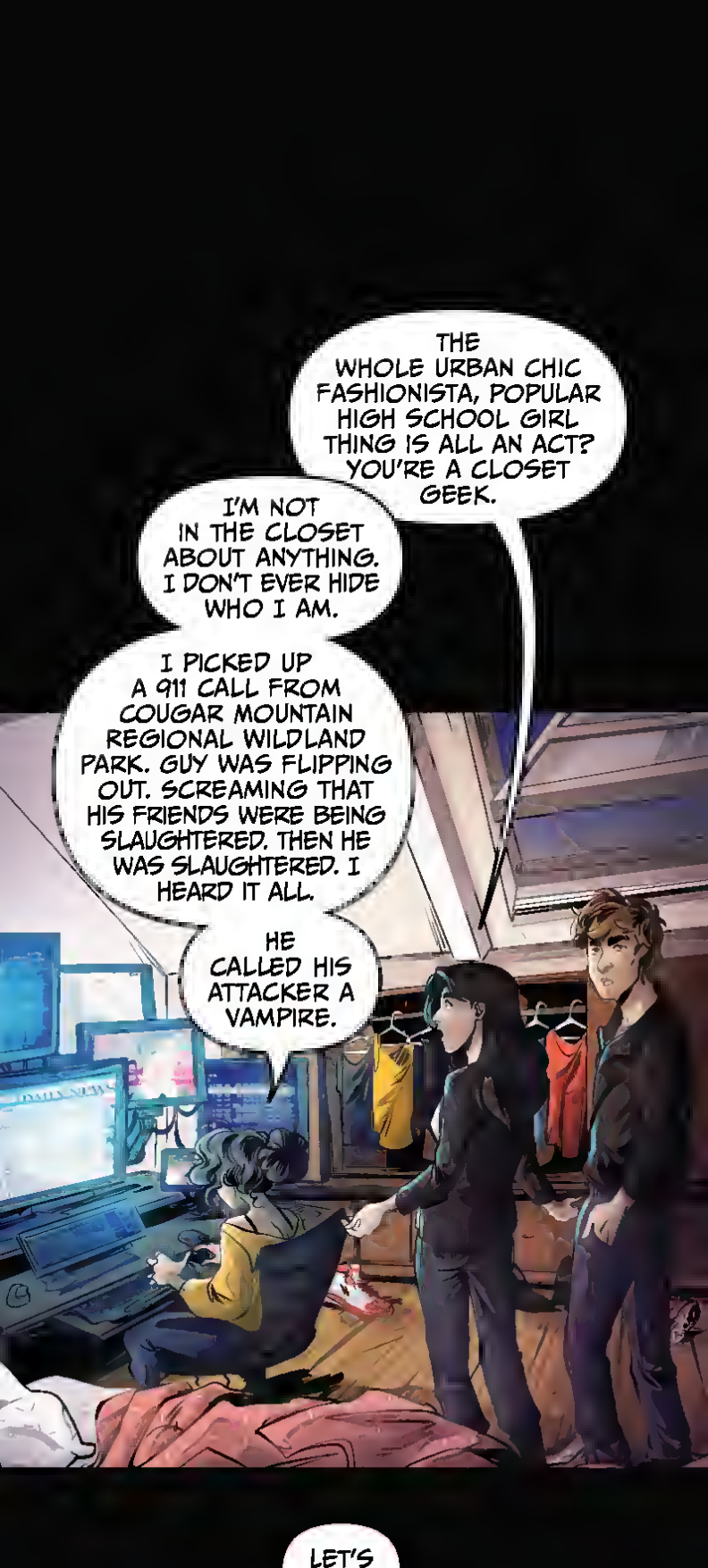
GOOD AT...

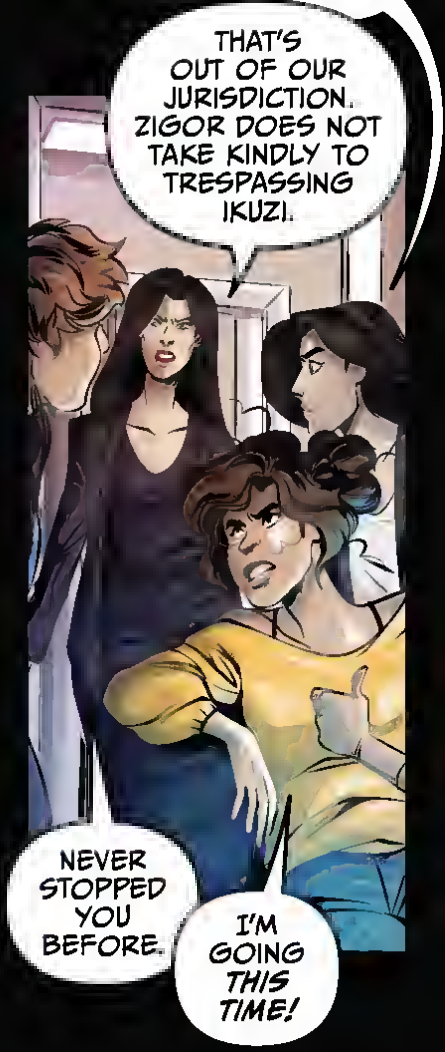
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ABOUT?
THE ROOM.


USED TO BE A STORAGE ROOM. WHEN SELENA ASKED ME TO CLEAN IT OUT, TURN IT INTO A BEDROOM.

I...UH... WAS HOPING IT WAS FOR YOU.

THEY'VE STRUCK AGAIN...


THE WHOLE URBAN CHIC FASHIONISTA, POPULAR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL THING IS ALL AN ACT? YOU'RE A CLOSET GEEK.
I'M NOT IN THE CLOSET ABOUT ANYTHING. I DON'T EVER HIDE WHO I AM.
I PICKED UP A 911 CALL FROM COUGAR MOUNTAIN REGIONAL WILDLAND PARK. GUY WAS FLIPPING OUT. SCREAMING THAT HIS FRIENDS WERE BEING SLAUGHTERED. THEN HE WAS SLAUGHTERED. I HEARD IT ALL.
HE CALLED HIS ATTACKER A VAMPIRE.
LET'S GO.


THAT'S OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION. ZIGOR DOES NOT TAKE KINDLY TO TRESPASSING IKUZI.
NEVER STOPPED YOU BEFORE.
I'M GOING *THIS TIME!*

NO. I'LL GO ALONE. YOU THREE STAY HERE AND GUARD THE IMP.
THAT'S *NOT FAIR!*

SHE'S RIGHT, PREN. WE SHOULD STAY HERE.
WHY WOULD I WANT TO STAY HERE?
BECAUSE WHILE SHE'S GONE I THINK WE'LL FIND OUT MORE BY GOING BACK TO WHERE YOUR FRIEND FELICITY WAS KILLED...

"...THE UNDERGROUND CITY."

LEGENDARY